

FACILITATING SINGLE SIGN-ON BY USING AUTHENTICATED CODE TO ACCESS A PASSWORD STORE

ABSTRACT

Sub B16 → ~~One embodiment of the present invention provides a system that facilitates~~
accessing to a plurality of applications that require passwords. When the system
receives a request for a password from an application running on a remote
computer system, the system first authenticates the request to ensure that it
originated from a trusted source. Next, the system uses an identifier for the
application to look up the password for the application in a password store, which
contains passwords associated with the plurality of applications. If the password
exists in the password store, the system sends the password or a function of the
password to the application on the remote computer system. Hence, the system
creates the illusion that there is a single sign on to a large number of applications,
whereas in reality the system automatically provides different passwords to the
applications as they are requested. In one embodiment of the present invention,
the request for the password includes computer code that when run on the local
computer system requests the password on behalf of the application on the remote
computer system. In a variation on this embodiment, the computer code is in the
form of a JAVA applet that runs on a JAVA virtual machine on the local
computer system. In one embodiment of the present invention, the JAVA applet
is a signed JAVA applet, and authenticating the request involves authenticating
~~the JAVA applet's certificate chain.~~